

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-05 USIA-06
AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15
SP-02 L-03 H-01 NSC-05 OIC-02 ABF-01 OMB-01
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1470
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2558

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNESCO, IS, US
SUBJECT: ISRAELI VIEWS ON UNESCO

REF: (A) PARIS 4247 (B) STATE 41428

1. THE MFA OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL RONN, CONFIRMED TO US THE INFORMATION CONTAINED PARA 3 REFTTEL (A), REGARDING ISRAELI VIEWS OF THE U.S. DECISION TO BECOME CURRENT IN OUR FINANCIAL OBLIGATION TO UNESCO. HE SAID HE WAS NOT HAPPY WITH THE U.S. DECISION BECAUSE HE FELT WITHHOLDING OUR CONTRIBUTIONS HAD BEEN VERY HELPFUL IN THE PAST IN EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE POLITICIAZATION OF THE ORGANIZATION AND THAT LEVERAGE WILL NO LONGER BE AVAILABLE. HE CONSIDERS UNESCO AS NOT YET SUFFICIENTLY DEPOLITICIZED; ISRAEL WILL THEREFORE CONTINUE TO PAY ONLY THE MINIMUM OF ITS ARREARS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN ITS VOTE IN THE GENERAL CONFERENCE. RONN SAID HE RECOGNIZED THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE POSITION OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS AND DID NOT REQUEST RECONSIDERATION OF THE U.S. DECISION.

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2. REGARDING THE VISIT BY THE UNESCO INSPECTION TEAM TO STUDY EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, RONN SAID IT IS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE DELEGATION WILL VISIT ARAB COUNTRIES IN THE BEGINNING OF MARCH AND WILL THEN DECIDE WHETHER A RETURN VISIT TO ISRAEL BY ONE OR MORE DELEGATION MEMBERS WILL BE NECESSARY. HE RE-

PEATED HIS EARLIER PREDICTION (SEE TEL AVIV 1614) THAT DIRECTOR GENERAL M'BOW WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PRESENT A FINAL REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD IN APRIL OR MAY.

3. RONN SAID THAT ISRAEL'S PARTICIPATION IN THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON RACE AND RACIAL PREJUDICE IS NOT YET FIRM. HE SAID THE MATTER HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN FOR HIS DECISION BUT THE MINISTER HAS NOT YET CONSIDERED THE ISSUE.

4. RONN SAID THAT ISRAEL REMAINS CONCERNED ABOUT THE DRAFT DECLARATION ON THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES COVERING THE USE OF THE MASS MEDIA. HE SAID THAT HIS INFORMATION INDICATES THAT THE ARABS, THE SOVIETS AND THE EAST EUROPEANS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE LACK OF SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO RESOLUTION 3379 IN THE PRESENT VERSION OF THE DRAFT DECLARATION.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE A FULL REPORT ON THE DECISION TO REQUEST FULL-FUNDING FROM THE CONGRESS TO ALLOW US TO BECOME CURRENT IN OUR OBLIGATION TO UNESCO. THIS SUBJECT IS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THE GOI BUT WE FIND THE ONLY REFERENCE TO THIS DECISION IS THE CABLE (REFTEL A) REPORTING A DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT DURING A CONVERSATION WITH THE ISRAELI PERMREP IN PARIS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE A FULLER REPORT.

LEWIS

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